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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227347 TOSEC 270103

FOR LORD/EYES ONLY FROM BARTHOLOMEW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: EVANS-NOVAK ARTICLE

1. AS YOU CAN SEE FROM READOUT BELOW OF JOHN FORBES' TELE-CON WITH JOHN PRESSLEY OF SENATOR THURMOND'S STAFF, THINGS TURNED OUT QUITE WELL. TO REITERATE BACKGROUND I RELAYED IN OUR TELECON, PRESSLEY CALLED LETHEAN AND TOLD HER THAT THURMOND HAD RECEIVED YAF LETTER ON SOLZHENITSYN WHICH PRESSLEY HAD NOT YET SHOWN TO THURMOND. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER MR. LORD HAD SEEN THE EVANS AND NOVAK PIECE -- AND HOW'S THAT FOR A LEADING QUESTION? LETHEAN WAS TOTALLY NON-COMMITTAL. SORRY TO HAVE TO TELEPHONE YOU, BUT THOUGHT YOU WOULD WISH TO BE CONSULTED AND IT WAS IMPOR-TANT TO GET BACK TO THURMOND'S OFFICE QUICKLY.

2. JOHN'S TALK WITH PRESSLEY WAS BRIEF, LOW-KEY, NON-DEFENSIVE, AND AMICABLE. PRESSLEY EXPLAINED HE WAS PRE-PARING RESPONSE TO YAF LETTER WHICH ASKED THURMOND TO MAKE HIS VIEWS ON YOUR REPORTED COMMENTS ON SOLZHENITSYN KNOWN
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TO THE PRESIDENT AND SENATOR DOLE. HE SAID LETTER DE-

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SCRIBED REPORTED COMMENTS AS AT VARIANCE WITH REPUBLICAN PLATFORM AND VIEWS OF MAJORITY OF AMERICAN PEOPLE. PRESSLEY ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING RESPONSE.

3. NOTING THAT YOU WERE TRAVELING WITH SECRETARY IN AFRICA, JOHN SAID PRESS SPOKESMAN HAD CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT YOU HAD USED WORD "FASCIST" TO CATEGORIZE SOLZHENITSYN. EVANS AND NOVAK ARTICLE WAS APPARENTLY BASED ON INACCURATE ACCOUNT OF AN INFORMAL, OFF-THE-RECORD SESSION YOU HELD WITH SUMMER INTERNS LAST MONTH, FOR WHICH NO TRANSCRIPT HAD BEEN MADE.

4. PRESSLEY WAS APPRECIATIVE; HE SEEMED SATISFIED AND DID NOT PRESS FURTHER. HE CLOSED CONVERSATION BY SAYING HE FORESAW NO PROBLEM IN HANDLING RESPONSE TO YAF LETTER.

5. ON SEPARATE, MORE VITAL SUBJECT: ASSUME YOU ARE AWARE THAT YOU AND NICK FINISHED SUNDAY TIED FOR FIRST PLACE IN OFFICE POOL. BUT MONDAY NIGHT'S OUTCOME MAINTAINED YOUR UNBROKEN STRING OF LOSSES. ROBINSON

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